



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2009

Contact: Aurelio Rojas 213-280-6579
James Bolden 213-200-5314

**BOARD SUPPORTS RIDLEY-THOMAS REQUEST
TO PURSUE STATE LEGISLATION EXEMPTING
VOLUNTEER MEDICAL PERSONNEL FROM LICENSE
REQUIREMENTS FOR SHORT DURATIONS**

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Supervisors today approved Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' motion urging the County to pursue state legislation that would exempt volunteer medical professionals from out-of-state from California license requirements for short periods.

"We should seek to remove the State of California restrictions and licensure regulations that prevent organizations, such as the internationally recognized Remote Area Medical clinic, from providing much needed volunteer medical services to the County's uninsured and underinsured," the Supervisor said.

He noted that at the RAM-LA clinic at the Forum in Inglewood in August about 14,561 uninsured and underinsured residents were served.

The RAM-LA medical professionals – many of whom live in other states -- eagerly volunteered and participated at their own expense. In total, RAM-LA provided roughly \$2.9 million dollars worth of donated services.

"The services were not only free to anyone seeking care, but were provided at no cost to the taxpayers and the government," the Supervisor said.

The Supervisor's motion directs the County's Chief Executive Officer to pursue legislation supportive of an exemption from licensure within California for those out-of-state licensed medical personnel in good standing, including physicians, dentists, nurses and other health professionals.

The exemption would last a short duration for volunteer medical and dental services sponsored by non-profit or community groups.

#